

CIA Director Asks Authority to Force Employees to Retire

By Jerry Kluttz

Central Intelligence is seeking broad authority for its director to retire employees involuntarily for the good of the service.



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Another hearing on its proposal will be held Wednesday behind closed doors by a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. The subcommittee is expected to approve a bill

which will be along the general lines of the Foreign Service retirement system.

The CIA proposal would divide into two classes those employees who are forced to retire before completing 20 years service.

In one group would be those in Grade 14 (\$12,845-\$16,245) and above. These employees would be permitted to retire on immediate reduced annuities regardless of age.

In the second group would be those employees who are in Grade 13 and below and who have less than 20 years service. On being involuntarily retired, these employees would receive severance pay at a rate of a month's salary for every year of service up to a maximum of a full year's salary.

The director would have the option to pay severance in either a lump sum or in three equal annual non-interest bearing installments. The employees could be paid deferred retirements at age 62. CIA paid severance to a few employees who were laid off last year.

Employees would be given the option to retire on full annuities at age 50 after 20 years of service. The director also would have the same option to force the retirement of employees at that time.

In addition, the super-secret intelligence agency is reported to be seeking authority to retire after less than 20 years employees who have unusually difficult assignments. In effect, CIA wants to give 18 months' credit towards retirement for each year spent at an overseas hardship post.

Because of the heavy stress and strain connected with many of their jobs, CIA employees frequently burn themselves out at relatively early ages and some of them are unable to work at other jobs. The agency also would use the authority to retire operatives who become publicly identified as CIA agents and who therefore are no longer useful to it.